Dear Mr. Smith:

I have read your reports for years and appreciate your contribution to news-reporting in this country.

A listener has recently disturbed me by pointing out a discrepancy in your reporting from Dallas about the murder of President Kennedy. I have re-checked your reports and it seems your memory of the events is not as clear as you claim.

Nov. 23, 1963: The President's car, possibly as much as 150 or 200 yards ahead...
...Next in line was the car bearing Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. Behind that, another follow-up car bearing agents assigned to the Vice President's protection. We were behind that car...

Nov. 6, 1966: We were at the point of coming out of an underpass when the first shot was fired...
...As we cleared the underpass, then came the second and third shots...

(Underlining mine)

Having checked the maps and photos of the Dealey Plaza area, I cannot reconcile your two reports. You have said you were behind the President's car and in front of the President's car.

Could you explain this, please. Thank you.

James Eason
Jan. 30, 1967

Merriman Smith
c/o U-P-I
315 National Press Bldg
Washington, D.C. - 20004

Hal — A copy for you. I'll let you know what happens. Stick with it!! Jim